



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
SECURITY**

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Rehabilitation Services Administration
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David Berns
Director

October 15, 2003

Notice of Intent to Issue a Request for Grant Application Solicitation

Solicitation No: EG-RSA-04001
Solicitation Title: Vocational Rehabilitation Establishment Grant Program
Procurement Office: Department of Economic Security, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Dear Interested Parties:

You have expressed interest in receiving information regarding solicitations like the one noted above. This letter is your official notification that the Department of Economic Security, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) intends to issue a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) solicitation. A brief description of the solicitation requirements are outlined below.

This is the only notification you will receive.

If you wish to submit an application, you must request a RFGA solicitation document. A copy of the document will be provided to those explicitly requesting one. You may e-mail, fax, mail or hand-carry your request to the below address.

Department of Economic Security
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Site Code 930A
ATTN: George W. Bravakos
1789 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor N.W.
Phoenix AZ 85007

Telephone Number 602-542-3332
Fax Number 602-542-3778
E-Mail: gbravakos@mail.de.state.az.us

If you choose to fax, mail or hand-carry your request, please use this notice. Provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address on the line below. **It is not necessary to return any attached pages.**

It is anticipated the Request for Grant Application will be released after October 22, 2003.

Print Name Clearly	Phone	Fax	E-mail address
Company Name	Address	City	State Zip Code

Summary of Request for Grant Applications

The Department of Economic Security (DES), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) intends to award grants to non-profit Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) providers and public agencies to establish, develop, or improve public or nonprofit community rehabilitation programs used to provide vocational rehabilitation services that promote competitive integrated employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Applications are being solicited in the following areas:

1. Programs (to include assistive technology) aimed at benefiting persons who are blind or visually impaired through the development, expansion, or improvement of:
 - a. comprehensive adjustment services programs for transition high school students who are blind or visually impaired;
 - b. comprehensive adjustment service programs for adults who are blind or visually impaired; and/or
 - c. vocational readiness, work exploration, trial employment, specific job training programs designed specifically for adults and/or transition students who are blind or visually impaired.
2. Programs aimed at benefiting behavioral health consumers who are applicants or participants of the Vocational Rehabilitation by:
 - a. creating competitive integrated employment opportunities for persons with a serious mental illness such as: developing and expanding partnerships with business/industries; developing a consumer-run retail, service or manufacturing business; or assisting individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses to work in entry level professional positions;
 - b. developing a training program for employees of public agencies such as Fire or Police Departments on how to work effectively and correctly with persons with severe mental illnesses (SMI) in crisis situations (where such training may not be currently available or such cooperation doesn't currently exist), delivering such training, and creating ongoing links between Fire and Police departments and local agencies serving persons with SMI.
3. Projects aimed at make One Stop Workforce Development Centers a viable and significant resource for persons with disabilities. Project goals that will be considered for funding include, but are not limited to:
 - a. hiring and training disability specialists/coordinators to work within One Stop Workforce Development Centers;
 - b. creating and supporting a cross disability resource center/program (e.g. self-help peer support groups, disability benefits counseling, management of IRWEs, PASS plans, a staffed resource center, etc.) for persons with disabilities within the One Stop center; and

- c. creating and/or supporting transportation resources to make One Stop services available to persons with disabilities who have transportation needs.
- 4. Projects aimed at developing coordinated transportation resources for VR clients needing to get back and forth to training or employment. The purpose is not primarily to develop separate (or additional) transportation systems but to develop methods or systems to coordinate and maximize the use of existing transportation resources.
- 5. Projects to create an ongoing resource to RSA counselors in the area of Rehabilitation Technology for clients of the VR Program within each region of the State (applicants who intend to serve individuals who are blind should consider applying for area I). The resource will, in part, act as a partner with the VR counselor in planning and providing assistive technology to clients. Projects will include a package of services to include:
 - a. developing, maintaining, and providing general resource information for easy access by counselors and VR clients;
 - b. doing "general" rehabilitation technology reviews,
 - c. providing technical assistance (both general and on specific client issues),
 - d. developing, coordinating and convening teams of experts, as necessary, to solve specific client issues, and/or
 - e. making referrals to appropriate vendors (within the full range of rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology services, and assistive technology devices) to implement rehabilitation technology plans.
- 6. Program to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities by:
 - a. coordinating "Employer Disability Resource Network (EDRN)" resources available to community employers in the recruitment, hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities; and
 - b. providing a forum for regular interaction between RSA management and community employers.
- 7. Programs aimed at updating and improving CRPs to allow them to provide quality services and to compete for State set-aside projects.
- 8. Programs to develop a system of supports for juveniles who are in the juvenile correction or probation system and clients of the VR program which would increase their chances of successfully completing a program of VR services and maintaining employment.

RSA envisions community providers developing program(s) of social work and counseling supports and intervention strategies to increase the odds of youths who have been referred to the VR program and who are participating in an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) to complete high school, prevent recidivism back to jail or detention, and to keep a job until age nineteen (19).

These potential grants represent exciting opportunities to enhance the service network for clients of the VR program. They also provide applicants an opportunity to partner with RSA in creating and developing new and effective programs.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCES: It is anticipated a Pre-Application Conference will be held in Flagstaff, Tucson and Phoenix; however, the Request for Grant Applications solicitation document will provide the official dates, times and locations for the Pre-Application Conferences.

Applications are tentatively due the Department of Economic Security by November 25, 2003; however, the actual Request for Grant Applications solicitation document will provide the official due date and time.

Grant award date is anticipated to be January 1, 2004.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the RFGA Contact Person as indicated above. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. Anyone requiring special accommodations should also contact the RFGA Contact Person.

POTENTIAL APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION SOLICITATION DOCUMENT AND CAREFULLY READ THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS PRIOR TO CONTACTING THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.